

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 1, Issue 6
February 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

I want to thank all the parents who participated in the current/prospective family information night on January 23. We had more than 300 people in attendance and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Additionally, I want to thank all of the parent volunteers who came to help the students during the intersession activity, World Savvy. The students learned many skills during this activity and exceeded my expectations for their projects.

During the doldrums of February, the students are actually in the midst of the greatest uninterrupted learning stretch of the year. Report cards for the first semester will be coming home this week. Though we are using Standards Based Grading throughout our school, our reporting mechanism still does not match that practice. Eventually, we would like to report out for each individual learning target in each subject area. At this time, however, we can only provide you with a composite score for each subject area.

Therefore, if you have questions about the grades, I would encourage you to make sure you connect with the classroom teachers.

Also, for a more in-depth look at Standards Based Grading, please join us at the PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Winter Conferences are Optional

Winter parent/teacher conferences at Ramsey Middle School will have two components. There will be scheduled conferences with team teachers for targeted students. If your student is one of these targeted students, you will be contacted by one of the core teachers to schedule a day and time.

Otherwise, there will be optional drop-in conference times for all students. Parents can come to Ramsey to

Contact Information

[Join Our E-Mail List](#)
[Ramsey Middle School website](#)
[Ramsey PTA website](#)

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Mon, Feb 18
Presidents Day
NO SCHOOL

Tue, Feb 19
9 am Coffee and
Discussion with
Principal Marietta
6:30 pm PTA Meeting

Wed, Feb 20
Plant Sale Orders Due

Thu, Feb 28
6-8 pm
Optional Conferences

Fri, Mar 1
10 am-12 pm
Optional Conferences
NO SCHOOL

Fri, Mar 8
6 pm
Family Movie Night

Speak individually with any of the teachers, who will be in the Media Center during the times listed below. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents/guardians.

Drop-In Conference Dates:

Thursday, February 28, 6-8 p.m.

Friday, March 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Family-School Compacts Due

Please sign and return Ramsey's [school compact](#) to your student's advisor ASAP.

Next PTA Meeting on Tuesday

Please join us at the next PTA meeting on February 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. We will be hearing more about standards-based grading and how it is being used at Ramsey. Childcare will be provided. If you can't be at the meeting in the evening, feel free to stop by the Media Center at 9 a.m. for coffee and an informal discussion with Principal Marietta.

Plant Sale Orders Due Wednesday

Think green in the middle of winter! You can support our PTA fundraiser while you plan for spring. If you don't have the order form that came home with your child, you can [print a copy](#) from the website. Turn it in to the office with your check (made payable to Ramsey PTA) by February 20. Plants will be available for pick up in early May (exact date TBA). If you have questions, e-mail [Kelly Kist](#) or call 651-605-5776.

Box Tops Needed

Please clip Box Tops for Education from the products you regularly purchase. Every Box Top coupon is worth ten cents to our school, and they can add up fast. The Box Top coupons will be counted and redeemed at the end of the month, so please deposit your coupons in the collection container on the PTA table near the office by February 28. [Click here](#) for a list of qualifying products.

Still Time to Sign Up

Spring after-school classes are in the third week already! We have several great classes underway and

are hoping to attract more students to our ranks. ALC classes are free, academic-enrichment classes in math, science, reading, and writing. This term, we have rocketry (GEMS/GISE), ELL Study Skills, and Math, Reading, and Writing Boosters. Our teachers are eager, gifted, and fun! Please e-mail [Linda Madson](#), ALC coordinator, if you have questions, or call 612-668-4044. Registration forms are available on the Ramsey website or in the main office.

Ramsey Students Get World Savvy

Ramsey students recently completed a very successful intercession (the interdisciplinary, project-based unit between first and second semester). This year's project was the World Savvy Challenge, which tackled sustainability. Students worked together to research sustainability, identify a local problem, and develop solutions to the problem. At the end of the week, students held an assembly during which they proposed their ideas and then took a survey to see which project had the most student interest. The idea of a school garden had the most interest, so this idea will be launched through our service-learning elective this spring.

Now Playing: Family Movie Night

Get into your comfy clothes and come spend an evening in front of the big screen at Ramsey on Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. Admission to the movie is free, and the PTA will be selling concessions. More details will be announced soon.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Get ready to cheer for the Twins! On Friday, May 10, we'll be heading to Target field with families from Lyndale and Burroughs to see the Twins take on the Orioles. Ticket information will be available in March.

Ramsey Students Impress at STEM Expo

Thirty-one eager Ramsey students participated in the STEM Expo Middle-School Career Fair on February 12. Students took part in many STEM-related activities offered by community organizations, universities, trade schools, and businesses. They also observed dancers from Perpich Center for the Performing Arts whose routine was based on the behavior of cephalopods and how we study biology. Ask them about it!

We received glowing feedback from the staff and exhibitors about our students' energy, enthusiasm, and participation level. Try to catch a glimpse of the students on Channel 15. Thank you to Charles Spolyar, Ken Lidle, and Safia Qanyare for chaperoning. Stay tuned for more STEM-based activities as we grow!

Homework Reminder

Families should keep in mind that students will have, on average, 90 minutes of homework each night. This includes independent reading time and instrument practice. Planners should come home with homework written inside each day. Teachers post homework on their websites as well.

Lawn signs are here!

Show your school support! Stop by the main office to pick up your Ramsey lawn sign.

Next Publication Date: March 14

The next issue of *Around the Horn* will be published on Thursday, March 14. Please send any [submissions to the editors](#) by Friday, March 8. To sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter, please send an e-mail request to opt-in to the mailing list to ramseyscommunications@gmail.com.



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